



FRANCE

COQUELICOT - PRESTIGIOUS FLOATING VILLA FROM CHALONS-EN-CHAMPAGNE

(TOUR CODE: 14932)

STARTS AND ENDS

Chalons-en-Champagne to
Jaulgonne

TRAVEL PERIODS

05 Apr 26 - 18 Oct 26

EXPERIENCE

Food & Wine
Luxury

TRAVEL STYLE

Cruise

Drift into Champagne's essence aboard Coquelicot, a refined floating villa celebrating local heritage with exclusive, behind-the-scenes champagne house experiences.

Highlights

- Explore Veuve Clicquot's vast chalk cellars and uncover the story of the widow who shaped a global icon, followed by an exclusive tasting
- Discover where Dom Pérignon's accidental breakthrough led to the first champagne, then enjoy an intimate tasting at a boutique local producer
- Savour a five-course dining experience at Maison Ruinart, where animated projections bring the champagne house's legacy to life

Set sail aboard Coquelicot, a luxurious floating retreat through Champagne, in partnership with Ruinart, the world's oldest champagne house. This elegant barge offers an immersive experience, featuring a spacious upper lounge with panoramic views, gourmet cuisine from an open kitchen and three beautifully designed cabins with en-suite marble bathrooms. As night falls, unwind with fine Ruinart Champagne in the salon and bar. Journey from Châlons-en-Champagne to Jaulgonne, savouring exquisite meals and France's finest wines on this unforgettable river cruise.

Kindly note: The Coquelicot is exclusively available for private charter for up to 6 guests & available in the reverse direction.

INCLUSIONS

- 6 nights onboard the Coquelicot in your own private sanctuary - with a capacity to welcome up to six guests
- All excursions including exclusive use of the onboard bicycles alongside the river
- Dedicated Host service
- A dedicated tour guide and an itinerary tailored to your preferences
- Table d'hote meals and complimentary beverages, daily breakfast and French fine dining experience served onboard
- Roundtrip transfers to/from the luxury barge within France & Geneva

ITINERARY

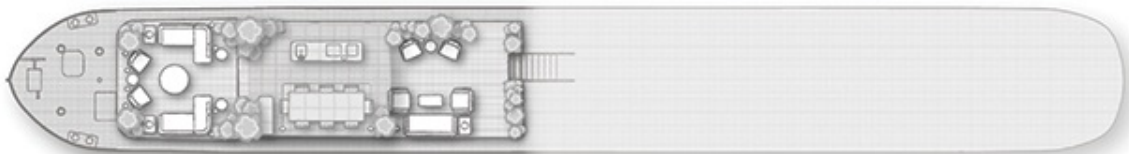
Facilities onboard Coquelicot

Welcome onboard!

The crown jewel of Coquelicot, venture to the top deck at dawn to catch a golden sunrise with your morning coffee and pastries. Get closer to your chef and crew as you lunch alfresco, admiring the backdrop of passing vineyards and watercolour chateaux. At night, gather your loved ones for a sparkling evening beneath an open canopy of stars.

Designed with tranquility in mind, this luxury floating villa ensures a supremely relaxing cruise. On the **upper deck**, unwind, connect and indulge: the spacious lounge is perfect for social relaxation, allowing you to soak up the panoramic views of Champagne behind the oversized picture window. Sit back under oak-panelled ceilings on plush furnishings, pen the day's highlights from your writing desk, or engage with your chef as they prepare seasonal cuisine with local ingredients, from the comfort of the open kitchen.

Below deck, three spacious cabins – and their ensuite marble bathrooms – adjoin an indoor dining area, ideal for intimate moments with your loved ones. As the evening unfolds, make your way to the salon and Champagne bar, and savour fine Champagne by Ruinart under the stars.



DECK PLANS

Day 1 & 2 Châlons-en-Champagne Vraux

In Châlons-en-Champagne, prepare to see the Champagne region from a fresh perspective. Your effervescent cruise begins with a champagne reception, a chance to meet your dedicated captain and crew. As you unpack and explore

Coquelicot, your elegant sanctuary, the chef onboard prepares your first gourmet dinner of the week.

On the morning of the second day, peacefully explore Châlons-en-Champagne. The elegant town's rich heritage is evident in beautiful timber-framed buildings and splendid churches. Back on the boat, start your picturesque cruise, relaxing to the rhythm of the water as you absorb the tranquil scenery from on deck. After lunch, a thrilling visit to Veuve Clicquot awaits. One of the most celebrated champagne houses in the world, it was named after the widow ("veuve") who took over her husband's wine business at the tender age of 27. Plunge into the atmospheric underground cellars that stretch deep into the crayères, or chalk pits, for over 24km and glean fascinating facts about the renowned label. Return to the boat for dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day 3 & 4 Mareuil-sur-Ay Damery

Linger over breakfast as Coquelicot glides towards the serene village of Mareuil-sur-Āy, tonight's mooring. Today, stop in Hautvillers Abbey to pay homage to Dom Pérignon and visit the place where the monk accidentally discovered how to make champagne through the process of secondary fermentation. Dinner tonight is served on board.

On the fourth day, head to Vertus to browse in the local farmer's market. After lunch, your guide takes you to Reims, the French city known for its local champagne production. Immaculate, leafy boulevards, Roman remains and art deco cafés await exploration. Return to the barge for an aperitif and get ready for this evening's dining experience in a beautiful restaurant.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



Day **5**

Vandières

On the fifth day, stop in Reims for a historic tour of Ruinart, the oldest established champagne house, founded in 1729. Upon arrival, a warm reception awaits in the lounge, with refreshments and an engaging introduction to the storied legacy of Ruinart. Follow your private guide 40 meters underground into the iconic Crayères, the Maison's historic chalk cellars – the perfect environment for aging champagne due to their consistent temperature and humidity.

In the Oenothèque, an exclusive space within the Crayères, savour a curated aperitif featuring a distinguished Ruinart cuvée paired with perfectly matched delicacies. In the evening, dine at "Petit R," an intimate dining room within Maison Ruinart.

Then, complete the experience with an exclusive visit to the "Secret Cellar" in the Nicolas Ruinart Pavilion. This sleek building, painstakingly redesigned by the acclaimed Japanese architect Sou Fujimoto was inspired by the delicate nature of champagne bubbles. Savour vintages aged for 20 years, including a Millésimé from Ruinart's exclusive collection. This is an unparalleled opportunity to taste and acquire these exceptional cuvées, available only at the Maison.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **6**

Jaulgonne

Today, sail towards Jaulgonne. Enjoy a private tasting at Leclerc Briant, a local winery renowned for its pioneering biodynamic champagnes, before exploring Épernay, the jewel of Champagne. Discover its elegant avenue, stretching nearly a kilometre and lined on both sides with magnificent mansions and prestigious champagne houses. Return to the barge and unwind over an aperitif before sitting down to a sumptuous farewell gala dinner.

Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Day **7**

Disembark in Châlons-en-Champagne

Your check-out time is scheduled for 09:00am. After breakfast, your crew bids you farewell as you disembark for your onward travel arrangements. We look forward to welcoming you back on board soon.

Breakfast

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE

French

LOCAL CURRENCY

EUR

- This itinerary may be subject to change. On alternate weeks, the cruise will be in the reverse direction.

Supplier Booking Conditions Apply

Due to the boutique nature and limited capacity of this travel experience, under our Bookings Conditions this package classifies as “Booking Type 2 – Travel Experience where we act as agent only”. Your contract for the delivery of travel arrangements will be with the principal supplier and will be subject to their Booking Conditions. We will advise you prior to confirming your booking the full details and Booking Conditions of the principal supplier. Our responsibility to you where we sell travel arrangements as agent for the supplier is specified in the ‘Responsibility’ section of our Booking Conditions.

Excluded

- International airfares and taxes
- Domestic airfares and taxes, unless otherwise specified in our holiday package
- Visa expenses, processing and issuance fees
- Meals other than as specified in our holiday package
- Drinks from the premium list, or drinks ordered during excursions
- Travel Insurance or expenses of a personal nature (mini-bar, phone call, laundry, etc.)
- Tips or gratuities to guides, drivers, porters, hotel, restaurant or boat staff, etc.
- Or any other travel expense that has not been included in our holiday package